

Serial No. **10/648,384**

Docket No. **RPL-0006REI**

Amdt. dated October 7, 2008

Reply to Office Action of July 10, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 23, 25-27, 33-38, 41-42, 45, 60-72, and 77-80 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 23, 25, and 41 are amended, and claims 21-22, 24, 28-32, 39-40, 43-44, and 46 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 60-72 are allowed. The Examiner is further thanked for the indication that claims 22-23, 25-36, and 77-80 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 23, 25, and 41 have been rewritten in independent form. Thus, these claims should be in condition for allowance, along with claims 26-27, 33-38, 42, 45, and 77-80, which depend respectively therefrom.

The Office Action rejected claims 21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Figures 1-3 of the present application and the corresponding disclosure, in view of Yoshikawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,185,229. This rejection is moot in view of the amendments discussed above.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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